IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below.

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing information propagating in a network environment, comprising:

a first network element operable to glean routing information being communicated by a second network element, the routing information being stored such that the routing information may be accessed, wherein the first and second network elements may cooperate in an adjacency protocol that allows for a data exchange between the first and second network elements, and wherein the second network element does not communicate the routing information gleaned by the first network element during the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol, **whereby the first network element, when receiving link state advertisements from non-adjacent network elements, stores the link state advertisements, and whereby when the first network element detects a new neighbor and starts a database descriptors (DBD) exchange process, the first network element will not include the link state database advertisements in the DBD exchange process, the first network element comparing one or more DBD entries from the neighbor against its normal and temporary link statedatabases to determine which link state advertisements it needs to request.**

2.   (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first network element includes a routing database that is operable to store the routing information.

3.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the first network element includes a general database, and wherein the first network element is operable to verify the routing information with the second network element such that verified information from the routing database may be stored in the general database.

4.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the network element is a selected one of a group of elements consisting of:

a router;

a switch;

a loadbalancer;

a processor;

a bridge; and

a gateway.

5.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first network element implements a communications protocol that is selected from a group of protocols consisting of:

an interior gateway routing protocol (IGRP);

an enhanced IGRP (EIGRP);

non-stop forwarding (NSF) protocol;

multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) protocol;

intermediate system-to-intermediate system (IS-IS) protocol;

express forwarding (EF) protocol;

open shortest path first (OSPF) protocol; and

stateful switch over (SSO) protocol.

6.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the routing information is communicated by the second network element in response to a change in a third network element that is operable to communicate with the second network element.

7.   (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the routing information includes link state advertisements, requests, and updates, and wherein the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol includes an exchange of database descriptors (DBDs).

8. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing information propagating in a network environment, comprising:

gleaning routing information being communicated by a first network element, the routing information being stored such that it may be accessed; and

executing an adjacency protocol between the first network element and a second network element that allows for a data exchange between the first and second network elements, wherein the first network element does not communicate the routing information gleaned by the second network element during the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol, **whereby the first network element, when receiving link state advertisements from non-adjacent network elements, stores the link state advertisements, and whereby when the first network element detects a new neighbor and starts a database descriptors (DBD) exchange process, the first network element will not include the link state database advertisements in the DBD exchange process, the first network element comparing one or more DBD entries from the neighbor against its normal and temporary link statedatabases to determine which link state advertisements it needs to request.**

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

accessing the routing information in order to make a comparison such that the routing information gleaned by the second network element during the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol is not communicated to the second network element.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

verifying the routing information with the first network element such that verified information may be stored in a general database.

11.   (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

implementing a communications protocol in the second network element, the communications protocol being selected from a group of protocols consisting of:

an interior gateway routing protocol (IGRP);

an enhanced IGRP (EIGRP);

non-stop forwarding (NSF) protocol;

multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) protocol;

intermediate system-to-intermediate system (IS-IS) protocol;

express forwarding (EF) protocol;

open shortest path first (OSPF) protocol; and

stateful switch over (SSO) protocol.

12.   (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

communicating the routing information in response to a change in a third network element that is operable to communicate with the first network element.

13.   (Currently Amended)   A system for reducing information propagating in a network environment, comprising:

means for gleaning routing information being communicated by a first network element, the routing information being stored such that it may be accessed; and

means for executing an adjacency protocol between the first network element and a second network element that allows for a data exchange between the first and second network elements, wherein the first network element does not communicate the routing information gleaned by the second network element during the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol, **whereby the first network element, when receiving link state advertisements from non-adjacent network elements, stores the link state advertisements, and whereby when the first network element detects a new neighbor and starts a database descriptors (DBD) exchange process, the first network element will not include the link state database advertisements in the DBD exchange process, the first network element comparing one or more DBD entries from the neighbor against its normal and temporary link statedatabases to determine which link state advertisements it needs to request.**

14.   (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

means for accessing the routing information in order to make a comparison such that the routing information gleaned by the second network element during the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol is not communicated to the second network element.

15.   (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

means for verifying the routing information with the first network element such that verified information may be stored in a general database.

16.   (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

means for implementing a communications protocol in the second network element, the communications protocol being selected from a group of protocols consisting of:

an interior gateway routing protocol (IGRP);

an enhanced IGRP (EIGRP);

non-stop forwarding (NSF) protocol;

multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) protocol;

intermediate system-to-intermediate system (IS-IS) protocol;

express forwarding (EF) protocol;

open shortest path first (OSPF) protocol; and

stateful switch over (SSO) protocol.

17.   (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

means for communicating the routing information in response to a change in a third network element that is operable to communicate with the first network element.

18.   (Currently Amended)   Software for reducing information propagating in a network environment, the software being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer code such that when executed is operable to:

glean routing information being communicated by a first network element, the routing information being stored such that it may be accessed; and

execute an adjacency protocol between the first network element and a second network element that allows for a data exchange between the first and second network elements, wherein the first network element does not communicate the routing information gleaned by the second network element during the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol, **whereby the first network element, when receiving link state advertisements from non-adjacent network elements, stores the link state advertisements, and whereby when the first network element detects a new neighbor and starts a database descriptors (DBD) exchange process, the first network element will not include the link state database advertisements in the DBD exchange process, the first network element comparing one or more DBD entries from the neighbor against its normal and temporary link statedatabases to determine which link state advertisements it needs to request.**

19.   (Original)   The medium of Claim 18, wherein the code is further operable to:

access the routing information in order to make a comparison such that the routing information gleaned by the second network element during the data exchange associated with the adjacency protocol is not communicated to the second network element.

20.   (Original)   The medium of Claim 18, wherein the code is further operable to:

verify the routing information with the first network element such that verified information may be stored in a general database.

21.   (Original)   The medium of Claim 18, wherein the code is further operable to:

communicate the routing information in response to a change in a third network element that is operable to communicate with the first network element.